

To: EAPS Committee for the EAPS Award for Population Studies

From: Tommy Bengtsson, Francesco Billari, Graziella Caselli, Hal Caswell, Kaare Christensen, Andreas Edel, Albert Esteve, Jan Falkingham, Irena Kotowska, Wolfgang Lutz, Clara Mulder, Mikko Myrskylä, Luule Sakkeus, Jacques Vallin, Leo van Wissen and Frans Willekens
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We are pleased to nominate James Vaupel for the EAPS Award for Population Studies.

Jim is one of the world's leading demographers, and innovator and institution builder in demography. His research is dedicated to three main interests: the causes and consequences of the continuing rise in human life expectancy; the biodemography of mortality and fertility across the tree of life; and mathematical demography. His institution-building contributions have been crucial for the development of current European demography.

Jim revolutionised the demography of ageing. His approach has consistently been multidisciplinary, incorporating both human and non-human biology, mathematics, genetics, and public policy. He published in top scientific journals including *Science* magazine, *Nature*, *PNAS*, *The New England Journal of Medicine*, and *The Lancet*. His research was covered frequently in the media, thanks to his exceptional ability to relate his basic research to highly contemporary issues including future retirement ages, pension funding, taxation rates and health policies. In his research and teaching, he positions demography half way between the social and biological sciences, with a focus on biodemography and evolutionary demography. He was a pioneering demographer in studying non-human populations and in using experimental studies in labs. In 2009, *The Lancet* published a portrait and characterised him as innovator in the study of ageing ([http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(09\)61729-3/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(09)61729-3/fulltext))

The contribution to demography is not limited to his scientific achievements. In 1996, Jim established the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (MPIDR) in Rostock, Germany, and in 2013 the Max Planck Odense Center on the Biodemography of Aging (MaxO) at the University of Southern Denmark. In 2005 he co-founded the European Doctoral School of Demography (EDSD) and in 2009 Population Europe, two initiatives under the auspices of EAPS. These initiatives contributed greatly to the teaching of demography and supporting young scholars in their research as well as to the dissemination of demographic knowledge to policy makers, educational institutions and the general public. They also enhanced the cohesion among demographers and demographic institutes in Europe. Jim had and continues to have a major impact on the demography profession in Europe and globally. Without his ideas, energy and ability to reach out, demography would not be in the strong position among the sciences it enjoys today.

Jim's path-breaking and world-leading contributions have been acknowledged widely. In 2001, the Population Association of America awarded him the Irene B. Taeuber Award for Lifetime Achievement and in 2008 the Mindel C. Sheps Award for Mathematical Demography. He is a recipient of the Seneca Medal (Germany) for research on longevity and of the Longevity Prize of the Ipsen Foundation (France). He received the European Latsis Prize by the European Science Foundation in 2011, honouring his lifetime achievements in the field of population studies. He is a scientific member of the Max Planck Society (Germany), a Fellow of the American Academy

of Arts and Sciences, a regular member of the U.S. National Academy of Science and of the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. He received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Newcastle (UK) (2010) and the University of Lund (Sweden) (2015).